

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEGUCI 02227 281506Z

46

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AGR-20 SIL-01 EUR-25 IO-14

CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 L-03 LAB-06

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-20

STR-08 TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 OMB-01

SWF-02 DRC-01 /201 W
----- 059748

R 242103Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7191

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 2227

GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EIND, HO

SUBJECT: BANANAS: STANDARD FRUIT DEVELOPMENTS

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 2173 AND STATE 104034

1. GENERAL MANAGER ROTOLO OF STANDARD FRUIT ADVISED AMBASSADOR
MAY 23 THAT CONCILIATION STAGE OF NEGOTIATIONS ON LABOR CONTRACT TO
COMMENCE MAY 24. THESE DISCUSSIONS TO BE PARALLELED BY SECRET TRIPARTIT
E

AMONG MINLAB FONSECA, ROTOLO AND UNION LEADER, PROBABLY NEPOLEON
ACEVEDO (SEE SEPTTEL ON POSITION OF UNION AND COMPANY). ROTOLO

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PAGE 02 TEGUCI 02227 281506Z

NOT OPTIMISTIC THAT CONCILIATION WILL RESULT IN AGREEMENT. HOWEVER,

QUITE PLEASED THAT TRILATERAL DISCUSSION IS PROPOSED AND PROVIDES COMMUNICATIONS LINK BETWEEN COMPANY AND GOH.

2. STANDARD SHIPPING 400,000 BOXES THIS WEEK OF WHICH 128,000 BOXES DESTINED FOR U.S. THIS VOLUME SUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN NEARLY FULL EMPLOYMENT AT STANDARD.

3. IN SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT, MINFIN ACOSTA BONILLA ADVISED ECOMOFF THAT CHIEF OF STATE LOPEZ HAS ESTABLISHED CABINET LEVEL COMMISSION TO DEAL WITH BANANA PROBLEM. COMMISSION COMPOSED OF COL. MELGAR OF GOBERNACION, ACOSTA BONILLA, MINFORAF BATRES AND MINECON BENNATON. TWO KEY QUESTIONS POSED BY ACOSTA BONILLA: FIRST HE STATED ELI BLACK SAID THAT COMPANIES WOULD BE PRESENTING A PROPOSAL TO GOH. GOH AWAITING THIS INITIATIVE. SECOND, STATISTICAL DATA PROVIDED REFTEL 2 WAS PRESENTED BY ACOSTA BONILLA TO CHIEF OF STATE AND UPDATING URGENTLY REQUIRED WHEN DEPT HAS DATA AVAILABLE.

4. COMMENT: APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSION SETTLES AN UNCERTAINTY AS TO THE CONTACT FOR COMPANY DISCUSSIONS WITH GOVERNMENT. BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS CONNECTION BATRES AND ACOSTA BONILLA AS LAWYERS FOR BANANA COMPANIES, SOME POLITICAL DANGER EXISTS IN COMPOSITION OF COMMISSION. IT MAY BE SUBJECT TO PRESS ATTACK IF IT SEEMS TO FAVOR COMPANY INTERESTS. HOWEVER, BATRES AND ACOSTA BONILLA MOST KNOWLEDGABLE ON BANANA COMPANY OPERATIONS WITHIN CABINET. EMBASSY NOT PREVIOUSLY AWARE THAT ELI BLACK HAD OFFERED, OR GIVEN IMPRESSION, THAT COMPANIES WOULD PRESENT PROPOSAL TO GOH. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT EVEN IF BLACK DID NOT MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT, THE WAY IS CERTAINLY OPEN FOR SUCH A PROPOSAL IN THE MINDS OF THE GOH CHIEF OF STATE AND CABINET. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DEPT PURSUE THIS WITH UNITED AND STANDARD FRUIT FRONT OFFICES.
SANCHEZ

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